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311718Z Oct 00

CONFIDENTIAL PTQ6251

PAGE 01 HARARE 06126 01 OF 02 311720Z
ACTION AF-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	COME-00
	INL-00	DINT-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00
	EB-00	EUR-00	E-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	VC-00	H-01
	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	JUSE-00	LAB-01	L-00	VCE-00
	AC-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	NSF-01	OES-01	OIC-02	OMB-01
	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00
	SSO-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	EPAE-00	IIP-00	PMB-00
	DSCC-00	PRM-01	DRL-02	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/012W

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FM AMEMBASSY HARARE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7488
INFO SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 HARARE 006126

SIPDIS

USDOC FOR DHENKE-ROGERS
LONDON FOR CGURNEY
PARIS FOR BISA WILLIAMS
PASS USAID FOR AFR/SD - DWELLER, AND AFR/SA - CPALMA,
NNEWMAN
NAIROBI FOR PFLAUMER

PASS USTR - ROSA WHITAKER
PASS DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR FOR THE FISH AND WILDLIFE
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PAGE 02 HARARE 06126 01 OF 02 311720Z
SERVICE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/31/10
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [SENV](#) [PINR](#) [ZI](#)
SUBJECT: DEPUTY ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM MINISTER BRIEFS
AMBASSADOR ON PLANS TO PROTECT WILDLIFE AND RESOLVE
CONSERVANCY LAND OCCUPATIONS

CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR TOM MCDONALD FOR REASONS 1.5
(B) AND (D).

[¶11.](#) (C) SUMMARY: EDWARD CHINDORI-CHININGA, DEPUTY
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM AND ZANU-PF MEMBER
OF PARLIAMENT, PAID A CALL ON AMBASSADOR MCDONALD ON
OCTOBER 30 TO INFORM HIM OF HIS MINISTRY'S PLANS TO
IMPROVE PROTECTION OF WILDLIFE, RESOLVE THE OCCUPATIONS
OF CONSERVANCY LANDS, AND REACH AGREEMENT WITH
NEIGHBORING STATES ON THE JOINT MANAGEMENT OF NATIONAL
PARKS THAT CROSS BORDERS. CHINDORI-CHININGA
ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HIS MINISTRY HAS BEEN UNABLE TO
PREVENT POACHING OF WILDLIFE ON OCCUPIED LANDS. HE
CLAIMED HIS OFFICE HAS DEVELOPED A PLAN FOR RESOLVING
OCCUPATIONS OF LANDS DESIGNATED AS NATURE CONSERVANCIES,
BUT POLITICAL CORRUPTION IS AFFECTING THIS PROCESS.
TALKS BETWEEN ZIMBABWE AND ITS NEIGHBORS FOR JOINT
MANAGEMENT OF PARK LANDS THAT SHARE COMMON BORDERS IS
MOVING FORWARD, AND A TREATY IS READY TO BE PRESENTED TO
PARLIAMENT FOR THE JOINT MANAGEMENT OF A NATIONAL PARK
AREA THAT ZIMBABWE SHARES WITH MOZAMBIQUE AND SOUTH
AFRICA. FINALLY, PRESIDENT MUGABE IS SO OBSESSED WITH
THE LAND QUESTION, THAT NONE OF THESE ISSUES ARE
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PAGE 03 HARARE 06126 01 OF 02 311720Z
IMPORTANT TO HIM, ACCORDING TO THE DEPUTY MINISTER. END
SUMMARY

A MINISTRY UNABLE TO PREVENT RAMPANT POACHING

[¶12.](#) (C) CHINDORI-CHININGA ADMITTED THAT THERE HAS BEEN
POACHING ACROSS ZIMBABWE, ON COMMERCIAL FARMS AS WELL AS
NATURE CONSERVANCIES THAT HAVE BEEN OCCUPIED BY WAR
VETERANS AND LANDLESS PEOPLE SINCE FEBRUARY. THE DEPUTY
MINISTER'S ASSERTION CONFIRMS THE NUMEROUS PRESS REPORTS
AND COMMERCIAL FARMERS UNION UPDATES THAT HAVE DETAILED
THIS PROBLEM. HE STATED THAT HIS MINISTRY'S SCOUTS, WHO
HAVE TRADITIONALLY CONTROLLED POACHING OF WILDLIFE IN
ZIMBABWE, HAVE BEEN PREVENTED FROM DOING THIS THROUGH
INTIMIDATION, THREAT OF VIOLENCE, AND IN A FEW CASES,
PHYSICAL ASSAULT BY WAR VETERANS. A JOINT COMMAND OF
THE ZIMBABWE MILITARY AND POLICE ARE NOW BEING USED TO
ATTEMPT TO REGAIN CONTROL OF THE POACHING SITUATION. HE
BLAMED THE PROBLEM ON A LACK OF COMMUNICATION, ARISING

FROM THE FACT THAT HIS MINISTRY HAD NOT MET WITH OCCUPIERS TO ESTABLISH THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH HIS SCOUTS COULD SAFELY PATROL OCCUPIED LANDS TO PREVENT/CONTROL POACHING.

A SOLUTION FOR THE OCCUPIED CONSERVANCIES?

13. (C) THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND TOURISM MINISTRY IS WORKING
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PAGE 04 HARARE 06126 01 OF 02 311720Z
ON A PLAN FOR RESOLVING THE OCCUPATION OF LANDS DESIGNATED AS NATURE CONSERVANCIES TO WHICH, HE CLAIMS, THE CABINET HAS AGREED. THIS PLAN INVOLVES SECURING THE AGREEMENT OF PRIVATE CONSERVANCY LANDOWNERS TO ALLOW THE RESIDENTS OF INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES THAT BORDER THESE CONSERVANCIES TO BUY INTO THE OPERATION OF THESE AREAS, SO THEY MAY BENEFIT DIRECTLY FROM THE TOURISM TRADE THEY GENERATE. THE DETAILS OF SUCH A PLAN, INCLUDING PERCENTAGE OF OWNERSHIP, FINANCING, AND THE JOINT MANAGEMENT OF THESE CONSERVANCIES, WITH THEIR PRIVATELY OWNED LAND, GOVERNMENT OWNED LAND, AND INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION, WOULD BE ADDRESSED IN A WORKSHOP THAT THE MINISTRY IS PLANNING. HE SAID HE HAD TWO PROBLEMS: WHERE TO MOVE THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE OCCUPIED THESE LANDS; AND HOW TO FEND OFF THE POLITICIANS WHO WILL SEEK A CUT IN SUCH DEALS. THE AMBASSADOR ASKED THE DEPUTY MINISTER SPECIFICALLY ABOUT THE CASE OF THE SAVE CONSERVANCY AND RUMORS THAT JOSIAH HUNGWE, THE GOVERNOR OF THE MASVINGO PROVINCE, WHERE THIS CONSERVANCY IS LOCATED, IS INSISTING ON GETTING A PIECE OF THE ACTION. CHINDORI-CHININGA CONFIRMED THAT HE HAS ALSO HEARD SUCH RUMORS ABOUT HUNGWE, AND THAT THIS COULD PROVE A HINDRANCE TO RESOLVING THE SAVE CONSERVANCY SITUATION.

TRANSFRONTIER MANAGEMENT OF PARKS CLOSE TO REALITY

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CONFIDENTIAL PTQ6252

PAGE 01 HARARE 06126 02 OF 02 311721Z
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PAGE 02 HARARE 06126 02 OF 02 311721Z
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14. (C) THE DEPUTY MINISTER STATED THAT ZIMBABWE, MOZAMBIQUE, AND SOUTH AFRICA HAVE REACHED AGREEMENT ON A PLAN TO MANAGE JOINTLY THE AREA THAT CONSISTS OF THE GONAREZHOU NATIONAL PARK IN ZIMBABWE, THE COUTADO 16 NATIONAL PARK IN MOZAMBIQUE, AND THE KRUGER NATIONAL PARK IN SOUTH AFRICA. THIS AGREEMENT WOULD SOON BE PRESENTED TO THE ZIMBABWEAN PARLIAMENT FOR APPROVAL. HE ALSO REPORTED THERE IS PROGRESS TOWARDS AGREEMENTS BETWEEN/AMONG ZIMBABWE, BOTSWANA, NAMIBIA, ZAMBIA, AND

MOZAMBIQUE FOR THE JOINT MANAGEMENT OF OTHER NATIONAL PARKS THAT SHARE BOUNDARIES.

NONE OF THIS INTERESTS MUGABE

15. (C) THE DEPUTY MINISTER WAS ASKED IF, GIVEN THE IMPORTANCE OF TOURISM AS A FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNER FOR ZIMBABWE, AND THE PAST HISTORY OF ZIMBABWE HAVING A REPUTATION AS A COUNTRY THAT PROTECTED ITS WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AREAS, PRESIDENT MUGABE WAS INTERESTED IN THESE ISSUES. WITHOUT SAYING SO EXPLICITLY, CHINDORI-CHININGA IMPLIED THAT MUGABE NOW HAS NO REAL INTEREST IN THESE
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PAGE 03 HARARE 06126 02 OF 02 311721Z
ISSUES. THE DEPUTY MINISTER EXPLAINED THAT HE RECENTLY MET WITH MUGABE TO DISCUSS THESE ASPECTS OF HIS PORTFOLIO, AND WHILE MUGABE WOULD PAY ATTENTION AS HE SPOKE, WHEN IT CAME TIME FOR MUGABE TO TALK, HIS COMMENTS INVARIABLY RETURNED TO THE ISSUE OF LAND FOR THE LANDLESS.

LAND CASES OF AMERICAN CITIZENS

16. (C) THE AMBASSADOR TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY OF THIS MEETING TO RAISE THE SPECIFIC CASES OF AMERICAN CITIZENS RESIDENT IN ZIMBABWE WHO HAVE HAD THEIR LANDS LISTED FOR COMPULSORY ACQUISITION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF ZIMBABWE (GOZ). IT WAS POINTED OUT TO THE DEPUTY MINISTER THAT ALL OF THESE CASES INVOLVE LANDS THAT WERE PURCHASED BY THE AMERICAN CITIZENS IN ORDER TO PURSUE NATURE CONSERVATION AND TOURISM. IT WAS MADE CLEAR TO CHINDORI-CHININGA THAT IF THESE LANDS ARE EVENTUALLY FORCIBLY ACQUIRED BY THE GOZ WITHOUT APPROPRIATE COMPENSATION, IT WOULD HAVE A REAL ADVERSE AFFECT ON U.S.-ZIMBABWE RELATIONS. THE DEPUTY MINISTER PROMISED HE WOULD LOOK INTO THESE CASES.

17. (C) COMMENT: WHILE THE DEPUTY MINISTER'S COMMENTS WERE GENERALLY IN A POSITIVE VEIN REGARDING STEPS THAT THE GOZ SHOULD CLEARLY TAKE ON THE ISSUES DISCUSSED, THE ACTIONS THAT THE GOZ TAKES WILL BE WHAT COUNT. WHILE HE IS AN UP-AND-COMING ZANU-PF POLITICIAN WITH POLITICAL ACUMEN, THE DEPUTY MINISTER ALSO HAS UNCLEAN HANDS.
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PAGE 04 HARARE 06126 02 OF 02 311721Z
POST HAS HEARD CREDIBLE ACCOUNTS THAT CHINDORI-CHININGA WAS INVOLVED IN PLANNING AND EXECUTING THE POLITICAL VIOLENCE IN HIS HOME AREA IN THE PERIOD LEADING UP TO THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS. HE THUS SHARES BLAME FOR THE MINDLESS POACHING OF WILDLIFE, CUTTING OF TREES, AND SETTING OF FIRES THAT HAS OCCURRED ON ZIMBABWE'S PRIVATE NATURE CONSERVANCIES, RANCHES, AND COMMERCIAL FARMS.
END COMMENT.

MCDONALD

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